

IN RE: Appl. No. 10/762,266  
Applicant: CHAPUT, Robert  
Title of the Invention: CANNING JAR STRAINER

**CLAIMS LISTING -MARKED-UP VERSION**

Claim 1 (currently amended)

A canning jar strainer comprising a planar disk-shaped sheet material having:

- i. a plurality of incisions located circumferentially around the disk,
- ii. one or more crescent cutouts,
- iii. integral interlocking pull tabs,

Claim 2 (currently amended)

The canning jar strainer of claim 1 wherein the ~~firmness in material~~ is greater than the ~~upward pressure exerted by buoyant foods afloat in the can fluid~~ semi-resilient.

Claim 3 (currently amended)

The canning jar strainer of either claims 1 and ~~or~~ 2 wherein the crescent cutouts are shaped to generally fit the profile of a conventional utensil spoon.

Claim 4 (currently amended)

The ~~crescent cutout of the~~ canning jar strainer of claim 3 wherein said crescent cutouts ~~said cutout~~ serves both for straining and for lifting said disk out from a canning jar.

Claim 6 (new)

The canning jar strainer of claim 1 wherein the pull tabs are partially cut out of the canning jar strainer with the exception of a narrow edge forming a hinge at which the pull tabs pivotally and integrally engage to the disk, and wherein the two tabs are formed to include a slot at the intersection of the central and outer portions thereof allowing said tabs to be interlocked to form an X arrangement.

**Claim 5 (currently amended)**

The canning jar strainer of either claims 1 ~~to~~ or 4 wherein the utility thereof is to prevent buoyant foods from exposure to trapped air within a canning jar.

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A canning jar strainer incorporating ~~both methods for~~ food hold-down means, straining means, and strainer removal means. The present invention comprises: a planar disk-shaped semi-resilient sheet material having a plurality of small incisions located circumferentially around the disk, crescent cutouts and integral ~~pull-pull~~-tabs. ~~Said~~ These tabs, when folded toward each other, form a handle, which serve to pull out the strainer and provides distance maintenance between a jar lid and the disk. Therefore, inserting the disk of the present invention into the neck of a conventional canning jar provide ~~means~~ a method of holding food goods below the liquid line thus preventing oxygenation of ~~said~~ the food goods, while also serving as a strainer, which can be easily removed.